ABSTRACT:

The tubular banding applicator converts a flat tubular material into a cut length expanded tubular material and mounts the same circumferentially on a container. A driver moves a selected length of flat tubular material from a supply station, around a spreader, and into a hollow former that causes the tube to open. A cutter severs the selected length of opened tubular material from the supply station. A conveyor carries a series of containers along a path to a position in alignment with the opened tubular material. The driver moves a second selected length of flat tubular material from the supply into the former, thereby forcing the first length of tubular material out of the former onto a container aligned therewith. The tubular material is subsequently caused to shrink to securely enwrap the container. The cut length may be either short in comparison to the height of the container and applied as a band between the container neck and a closure, or similar to the height of the container and applied as a label.